
WORKING WITH BSL/ENGLISH INTERPRETERS



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ROLE OF BSL/ENGLISH INTERPRETERS

- Enables communication between BSL users and people who do not use BSL
- Interpreting and BSL Skills and Knowledge
- Cultures and values
- Makes sure each side understands each other

HOW DO PEOPLE BECOME QUALIFIED INTERPRETERS?

- BSL
- Interpreting Theory and Practice



SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS (SASLI)



- Registration Body What is this? Why? How?
- Skills and knowledge to become an interpreter, e.g. qualifications
- Skill checks
- Trainee and Registered Interpreters
- ID Cards
- Reassurance for users



SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION OF SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS (SASLI)



- Code of Conduct and Professional Practice Policy:
 - Interpreting Skills
 - Confidentiality
 - Impartiality
 - Professionalism
- Continuing Professional Development Policy – 30 hours
- Complaint Policy and Procedure

HOW TO WORK WITH BSL/ENGLISH INTERPRETERS

Role Plays

HOW TO WORK WITH BSL/ENGLISH INTERPRETERS

- Preparation – including placements
- Avoid own/home signs or sign names
- Be confident to ask for clarification
- Eye contact
- Sign clearly and at a good pace
- Interpreters are not your friends during interview!

HOW TO BOOK AN INTERPRETER FOR INTERVIEW

- If you get a job interview, you can apply for Access to Work to pay for BSL interpreter
- What is Access to Work?
 - Introduced in June 1994
 - National Programme delivered by Department for Work and Pensions
 - Help overcome barriers for disabled people when starting/staying in employment
 - Provides a grant to cover additional costs for “reasonable adjustments” employers must provide under Equality Act 2010
 - Provide funding for BSL interpreters in interviews so the employer or client does not need to pay

HOW TO BOOK AN INTERPRETER FOR INTERVIEW

- **Dual responsibility** between you and the employer to book a BSL interpreter.
- Let the employer know that you need a BSL interpreter. Often they are happy to take on this responsibility.
- But sometimes they may ask you to do it.
- If this happens, it is very important you contact AtW as quickly as you can
- There are several ways to contact AtW

HOW TO BOOK AN INTERPRETER FOR INTERVIEW

- Deaf employee makes the application
- You can contact them in three different ways:

Textphone: 0345 608 8753

- Available: Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm

Email: atwosu.london@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

British Sign Language (BSL) video relay service

- Available Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm
- Go to Access to Work website
- <https://www.gov.uk/access-to-work/apply>
- Click on the Video Relay Service
- You may need to download software to be able to access this

HOW TO BOOK AN INTERPRETER FOR INTERVIEW

- You **must be clear** that you are applying for ‘Communication Support at Interview’
- AtW will ‘fast-track’ your application – An Advisor should respond to you under two working days
- They will ask you for important job interview information:
 - Communication support you need – e.g BSL interpreter, notetaker, lipspeaker etc
 - Time, date, place and length of job interview
 - Name and contact details of employer
 - If you have a preferred BSL interpreter, provide their contact details

HOW TO BOOK AN INTERPRETER FOR INTERVIEW

- Once Advisor has all information they need, they will confirm if you have been successful in getting funding for the BSL interpreter.

You then have two options:

- Access to Work Advisor will book the BSL interpreter
- You book the BSL interpreter

For more information on BSL interpreter rates, how to process invoices and more, I will provide an **Access to Work** workshop this summer – please sign your name if you wish to come.

OTHER COMMUNICATION SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

VIDEO/ONLINE INTERPRETERS

DEAFBLIND INTERPRETERS AND
LIPSPEAKERS